

Message Text

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14
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN
SUBJ: RED CROSS TALKS

REF: SEOUL 4438

1. ROK NEWS MEDIA JULY 12 PROMINENTLY REPORTED PROPOSAL OUTLINED IN DINNER SPEECH BY KOREAN NATIONAL RED CROSS CHIEF DELEGATE YI POM-SOK TO PERMIT RELATIVES TO TRAVEL TO SOUTH AND NORTH TO VISIT ANCESTORS' GRAVES ON SEPTEMBER 11, CHUSOK HARVEST FESTIVAL. URGING THE NORTH TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL, YI REPORTEDLY SAID IT WOULD PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR MUTUAL TRUST AND MARK A TURNING POINT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH.

2. WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW NORTH KOREANS RESPONDED TO PROPOSAL WITHIN CLOSED DOOR TALKS. ROK MEDIA QUOTED NORTH KOREAN JOURNALIST AS SAYING "IT IS A GOOD PROPOSAL, BUT PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT MUST BE SOLVED FIRST." PYONGYANG MEDIA HAVE NOT MENTIONED KNRC PROPOSAL THUS FAR, FOCUSING INSTEAD ON NORTH'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE FATHERLAND REUNIFICATION. NORTH KOREAN RED CROSS CHAIRMAN SON SONG-PILL IN HIS DINNER SPEECH PRIOR TO YI EMPHASIZED NORTH KOREAN UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMANDS FOR CREATING "DEMOCRATIC CONDITIONS" AND ENDING

MILITARY CONFRONTATION AS PREREQUISITES TO PROGRESS IN RED CROSS TALKS.

3. TALKS MET FOR LESS THAN AN HOUR JULY 11 AND AGAIN FOR ONE HOUR THIRTY MINUTES JULY 12. AFTER FIRST DAY, SOUTH'S SPOKESMAN SAID THAT KNRC HAD OFFERED NEW PROPOSAL TO MAKE A TURNING POINT IN THE TALKS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO OTHER COMMENTS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS. DINNER HOSTED BY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ACTING CO-CHAIRMAN PAK SONG-CH'OL IS SCHEDULED JULY 12. GROUP WILL RETURN TO SEOUL JULY 13.

4. ROK MEDIA DESCRIPTIONS OF PYONGYANG ENVIRONMENT HAVE DEPICTED IT AS MORE RELAXED THAN LAST TIME ROK GROUP VISITED. MORE PEOPLE WERE SEEN ALONG THE STREET AND SOME CHILDREN EVEN WAVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, NORTH KOREAN RED CROSS CHAIRMAN'S DINNER SPEECH WAS DESCRIBED AS "POLITICAL PROPAGANDA."

HABIB

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